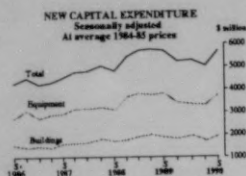


# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 29 November 1990

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Capital expenditure up but expectations down

Private new capital expenditure for September quarter 1990 has risen in real terms, the first increase for four quarters — but businesses have revised down their expectations of expenditure for the financial year 1990-91.

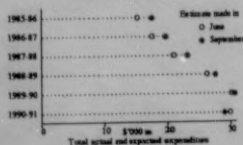
Preliminary results from the new capital expenditure survey show that in constant price terms and after seasonal adjustment, September quarter 1990 expenditure was up 6 per cent on the June quarter 1990. This consisted of a 4 per cent increase in expenditure on equipment and an 11 per cent increase in expenditure on buildings.

September quarter 1990 expenditure was down 4 per cent on the same quarter last year.

Among major industry groups, new capital spending in the manufacturing sector declined 15 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in the September 1990 quarter. There was a rise of 3 per cent in the finance, property and business services sector, a substantial rise of 18 per cent in the mining sector, and a large increase of 30 per cent in the other selected industries group (in which capital spending had slumped in the December 1989 and March 1990 quarters, but stabilised in the June 1990 quarter).

Businesses have revised downwards their expectations of total capital expenditure for the financial year 1990-91 from \$29,700 million as reported in the June survey to a current estimate of \$28,960 million. In previous years expectations data have usually been revised upwards between the June and September surveys (see graph). If the ratio of actual expenditure to expected expenditure for 1990-91 is the same as 1989-90, then we can expect a fall of 5 per cent in new capital spending in 1990-91 from the previous year. This consists of falls in expenditure of 4 per cent on equipment and 8 per cent on buildings. However, caution should be exercised in interpreting expectations data as much will depend on future economic conditions.

NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE  
Revisions to expectations



NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE  
Percentage change

Type of asset	Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices		
	From June to Sept. quarter 1990	From Sept. 1989 to Sept. 1990	Expected change 1989-90 to 1990-91
Buildings and structures	11	-1	-8
Equipment, plant and machinery	4	-6	-4
Total new capital expenditure	6	-4	-5

## Increasing commitment to R&D — but Australia still lags

Spending on industrial research and development (R&D) in Australia was 14 per cent higher in 1988-89 than the previous year at current prices, with private business enterprises showing the way.

Gross expenditure on R&D was \$4,187 million. Business enterprises carried out 42 per cent of the total, compared with 31 per cent by the general government sector and 26 per cent by higher education organisations.

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

Sector	1988-89 \$m	Percentage change from 1987-88 to 1988-89
Business enterprises	1,738	22
General government	1,315	10
Higher education	1,077	9
Private non profit	57	5
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>14</b>

In real terms (constant 1984-85 prices) the commitment to R&D in Australia was 9 per cent higher in 1988-89 than in the previous year, and 34 per cent higher than it was in 1984-85.

Over the four years since 1984-85, private enterprise has almost doubled its R&D commitment in real terms, and has overtaken the general government sector as the main source of R&D expenditure.

For all these upward trends however, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics summary of R&D expenditure finds that Australia still lags well behind many comparable countries when R&D spending is expressed as a ratio of gross domestic product (GDP).

In 1988-89, the Australian ratio was 1.24 per cent — a figure which has shown little change since reaching a modest peak of 1.28 per cent in 1986-87.

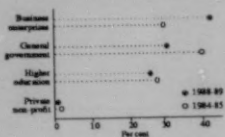
The ratios for some other OECD countries are Japan 2.92 per cent, USA 2.80 per cent, UK 2.27 per cent and Canada 1.29 per cent. In Ireland and Spain the R&D to GDP ratio is lower than Australia's, while in Italy the ratio is marginally above our own (see graph).

The publication from which these notes are drawn (see below) includes a wide range of expenditure and human resource statistics on Australian research and development.

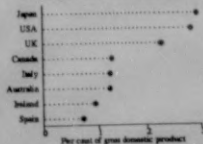
These include information on intramural research (carried out within an organisation for itself or for others), extramural research (funded by an organisation but carried out by others) and payments and receipts for technical know-how and patents activity. There are also special breakdowns covering the key area of energy research.

For further information, order the publication *Research and Experimental Development — All-Sector Summary, Australia (8112.0)*, or contact Trevor Germyn on (06) 252 5627.

R&D GROSS EXPENDITURE  
Proportion carried out by each sector



R&D GROSS EXPENDITURE  
Comparison of OECD countries

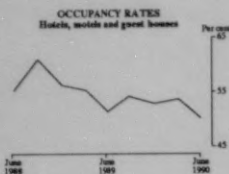


## Tourist occupancy rates down as capacity increases

The room occupancy rate for hotels, motels and guest houses in Australia has continued to decline despite an increase in room nights sold. The room occupancy rate during the June quarter 1990 was 50.1 per cent, a decrease from the 51.4 per cent for the June quarter 1989 and the 55.3 per cent recorded for the June quarter 1988.

The decrease in occupancy rate since June quarter 1989 occurred as a result of room nights available in hotels, motels and guest houses increasing by 5.6 per cent while room nights sold increased by only 3.6 per cent.

Takings from accommodation in hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 9.0 per cent from the June quarter 1989. Average takings per room night sold rose by 5.2 per cent from \$74 to \$78 over the same period.



**TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**  
Hotels, motels and guest houses

	June quarter		Change
	1989	1990	
Room nights available ('000)	12,982	13,712	5.6
Room nights sold ('000)	6,598	6,833	3.6
Room occupancy rate (%)	51.4	50.1	-1.3
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	487	530	9.0

The takings from accommodation for holiday flats, units and houses showed an increase of 11.9 per cent compared with June 1989, while takings for short-term caravan parks increased by 18.9 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (8635.0), or contact John Alexander on (07) 222 6215.

## New classification for transportable goods

The new version of the Australian Standard Commodity Classification (ASCC) for transportable goods is now available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

If, in your business, you need to:

- ☐ analyse manufacturing production
- ☐ assess import competition
- ☐ compare production and trade data
- ☐ link commodities to industries
- ☐ understand the basis of ABS commodity definitions

then you will find this to be a vital reference.

*Continued ...*

The ASCC is the Australian Standard for classifying transportable goods produced within Australia. The commodities in the ASCC are those collected by the ABS in respect of 1989-90 and include recent extensive changes to the range of manufacturing production commodities.

The ASCC facilitates the use of domestic commodity statistics by specifying links to the Harmonized System (HS), the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC).

As well as the printed version of the ASCC, a floppy disk version is available. To make commodity identification and coding easier, a Computer Assisted Coding system for the ASCC will also be available soon.

*For further information, order the publication Australian Standard Commodity Classification (Revised) — Transportable Goods (1254.0), or contact David McGeachie on (06) 252 7469.*

## This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

### ☐ Food consumption per capita

In 1989-90 the consumption of table margarine fell to the lowest level recorded since 1979-80. It fell by 4.5 per cent to 6.4 kg. The consumption of low alcohol beer continued to increase in 1989-90, rising by 14.6 per cent to 18.8 litres. The consumption of other beer continued to decline, falling by 4.1 per cent to 92.8 litres. The consumption of both tea and aerated and carbonated waters decreased, while the consumption of coffee remained stable.

*Source: Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Australia, 1989-90 Preliminary (4315.0).*

### ☐ Population

A very high percentage of Australia's population reside in the capital cities. In Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, more than 70 per cent of the population can be found in the capital city, while in New South Wales this proportion is 63 per cent. The population of Sydney now exceeds 3.6 million and the Melbourne population approaches 3.1 million, out of the State totals of 5.8 and 4.4 million respectively. In Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, however, less than half of the population resides in the capital cities.

*Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, June Quarter 1990 (3101.0).*

### ☐ Deaths

In 1989, there were 124,232 deaths registered in Australia, an increase of 3.6 per cent compared with 1988. Life expectancy at birth in 1989 for males was 73.3 and for females 79.6. This compares with 70.8 and 77.8 respectively in 1979.

In 1989, the major cause of death recorded in Australia for both males and females remained heart disease (27.1 per cent of all male deaths and 25.3 per cent of all female deaths).

*Source: Deaths, Australia, 1989 (3302.0).*

#### MEAT CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA

1989-90 kg

Beef and veal	40.9
Lamb	14.8
Mutton	8.2
Pigmeat	18.4

*Source: Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Australia, 1989-90 Preliminary (4315.0).*

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6101

**Statistics Weekly**  
29 November 1990

## All the week's releases: 21 to 27 November

### General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., November 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)  
Statistics Weekly, 22 November 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)  
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, November 1990 (1303.6; \$8.00)

### Demography

Australian Demographic Statistics, June Qtr 1990 (3101.0; \$10.00)  
Deaths, Aust., 1989 (3302.0; \$15.00)  
Deaths, SA, 1985 (3302.4; \$11.50) — *final issue*

### Social statistics

Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Aust., 1989-90, Preliminary (4315.0; \$3.30)  
Court Statistics: Higher Criminal Courts, WA, 1988-89 (4501.5; \$11.50)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, September Quarter 1990 Survey, Preliminary (\$625.0; \$3.50)  
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, June Qtr 1990 (5646.0; \$8.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1990 (6203.0; \$13.00)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., September 1990 (6415.0; \$5.00)  
1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Aust.: Detailed Expenditure Items (6535.0; \$16.50)  
1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Aust.: Detailed Expenditure Items (Corrigendum) (6535.0; free)  
Information Paper: 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Aust.: Unit Record File on Magnetic Tape (6544.0; free)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Research and Experimental Development: All-Sector Summary, Aust., 1988-89 (8112.0; \$15.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Transport Equipment, September 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50) (*Previously: Production of Transport Equipment, Aust.*)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Metal Products, September 1990 (8367.0; \$4.50) (*Previously: Production of Metal Products, Aust.*)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust., Energy Products, September 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50) (*Previously: Production of Energy Products, Aust.*)  
Retail Trade, Aust., September 1990 Supplement (8501.0; free)  
Tourist Accommodation, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (8635.0; \$9.00)  
Production Statistics, NSW, September 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)  
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, June Qtr 1990 (Corrigendum) (8635.1; free)  
Building Approvals, NSW, September 1990 (8731.1; \$8.60)

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 11 December 1990

### Publication subscription renewals

Subscription renewal invoices for the 1991 year have recently been sent to all subscribers to ABS printed publications.

These invoices need to be completed and returned as soon as possible so that you continue to receive your publication subscriptions without interruption. Subscription inquiries may be made toll-free to (008) 020608.

### November

- 28** Balance of Payments, Australia, September Quarter 1990 (5302.0; \$16.50)  
Foreign Investment, Australia, September Quarter 1990, Preliminary (5307.0; \$6.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00) (*Previously: Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary*)
- 29** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, September Quarter 1990 (5206.0; \$16.50)  
Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, September Quarter 1990 (5228.0; \$75.00)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 30** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, September 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, September 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)  
Building Approvals, Australia, October 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)

### December

- 3** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- 4** Balance of Payments, Australia, October 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
27 November 1990



Statistics Weekly  
29 November 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 90)*	-2.3	-8.2	-5.5	-10.6	-19.6	-21.6	n.a.	n.a.	-8.8
Retail turnover (Sept. 90) (trend estimate)	6.5	-0.1	4.4	5.7	3.8	8.0	n.a.	10.4	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 90)†	1.6	-25.6	16.5	-0.5	-8.1	14.1	-5.5	-33.7	-6.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 90)	-15.7	-28.8	-10.9	0.3	-20.1	-7.0	63.5	-32.4	-16.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (October 90)*	0.3	-0.2	2.0	2.0	0.7	0.3	-0.3	3.3	0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 90)	4.9	7.1	9.0	7.0	7.6	9.1	7.0	6.4	6.5
Population (June 90)	1.0	1.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.2	0.6	2.3	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 90)	5.4	-0.9	5.7	5.5	-4.1	-1.2	8.5	14.8	3.6

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators - consolidated to 27 November 1990

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices (f)	\$m	June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices (f)			62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	7,188	7,515	6.9	-1.8
	— 1984-85 prices			5,435	5,692	6.4	-4.1
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 90	8,326	n.a.	n.a.	-5.5
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Sept. 90	6,792	7,185	0.1	4.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. 90	14,213	14,858	0.4	0.4
New motor vehicle registrations (f)		no.	Sept. 90	50,018	50,872	8.6	-6.3
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Sept. 90	10,354	10,527	-3.7	-15.6
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,822	1,951	6.0	-18.4
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
Manufacturers' sales		"	June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	October 90	7,870.5	7,868.6	-0.1	0.7
Unemployment rate †		%	"	7.2	7.6	0.2	1.7
Participation rate †		"	"	63.6	63.9	0.0	0.5
Job vacancies		'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 90	208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		August 90	122.4	n.a.	5.2	2.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		August 90	109.6	n.a.	0.9	5.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m		June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$		August 90	541.70	n.a.	1.4	6.5
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		October 90	12.80	n.a.	-0.75	-5.55
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	13.35	n.a.	-0.30	-0.20
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise	\$m		Sept. 90	3,879	4,043	-1.5	-0.2
Imports of merchandise	"		"	3,809	4,067	2.6	10.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"		"	70	-24	66.2	95.3
Balance of goods and services (c)	"		"	-336	-295	39.0	66.4
Balance on current account (c)	"		"	-1,512	-1,549	2.0	23.8
Terms of trade (d) (e)	1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt (e)	\$m		30 June 90	122,770	n.a.	-2.0	11.7
Net foreign liabilities (e)			"	160,315	n.a.	-1.3	10.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
\$US	per \$A		Sept. 90	0.8249	n.a.	2.0	6.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	61.6	n.a.	0.3	1.7
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 90	17.1	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000		June 90	157	201	5.6	11.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 28 November 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 29 November 1990.  
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.  
Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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